CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 7 JUNE 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH AFRICA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF RELEVANT EXTRACTS ON DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES FROM THE FINAL DOCUMENT OF THE XIIITH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF THE MOVEMENT OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES HELD ON 8/9 APRIL 2000 IN CARTAGENA, COLOMBIA

South Africa, in its capacity as current Chair of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, is honoured to transmit herewith relevant extracts on disarmament and international security issues from the Final Document of the recent XIIIth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries held in Cartagena, Colombia.

I kindly request that these extracts be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and circulated to the delegations of all members States of the Conference and non-member States participating in its work.

(Signed) : George Nene
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

GE.00-61839

EXTRACTS ON DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES FROM THE XIIITH MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE MOVEMENT OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES HELD ON 8/9 APRIL 2000 IN CARTEGENA, COLOMBIA

QUOTE

CHAPTER I GLOBAL ISSUES

The International context since the Durban Summit

5. We emphasize that even when the spectre of a nuclear holocaust seems more remote than in the recent past and several countries resolved to reduce their military budgets in order to devote such resources to meet the social and economic development requirements of their people, great powers continue to endanger the future of humankind through the unjustified stockpiling and development of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and a rampant traffic in armaments continues to put in jeopardy the security and stability of vast regions of the world.

Disarmament and International Security

67. We reaffirm and reiterate the long-standing principled positions of the Movement on disarmament and international security, including the decisions taken at the XII Summit in Durban.

68. We are deeply concerned at the updating of strategic defense doctrines that set out new rationales for the use of nuclear weapons. In this regard also, we are deeply concerned over the new "Alliance Strategic Concept" adopted by NATO in April 1999, which not only maintain unjustifiable concepts on international security based on promoting and developing military alliances and policies of nuclear deterrence, but also includes new elements aimed to open even more the scope for possible use or threat of use of force by NATO.

69. We are furthermore concerned over the negative implications of the development and deployment of anti-ballistic missile defense systems and the pursuit of advanced military technologies capable of deployment in outer space, which have, inter alia, contributed to the further erosion of an international climate conducive to the promotion of disarmament and the strengthening of international security. In this connection, we call upon the States Parties to the ABM Treaty to fully comply with its provisions.

70. We are convinced of the need for a comprehensive approach towards missiles, in a balanced and non-discriminatory manner, as a contribution to international peace and security. In this context, we recall General Assembly resolution 54/54 F.

71. We reiterate our long standing principled position for the total elimination of all nuclear testing. We stress the significance of achieving universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), including by all the Nuclear Weapon States, which, inter alia, should contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament. We express our satisfaction that 155 States have signed the Treaty and 55 States have ratified it thus far. We reiterate that if the objectives of the Treaty were to be fully realised, the continued commitment of all State signatories, especially the Nuclear Weapon States, to nuclear disarmament would be essential. We express our concern over the recent negative developments with regard to the ratification of the CTBT.

72. We reaffirm the importance of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral negotiating body on disarmament. In this context, we regret that the continued inflexible postures of the Nuclear Weapon States continues to prevent the Conference on Disarmament from establishing in 2000 an Ad Hoc Committee on nuclear disarmament to start negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time, including a Nuclear Weapons Convention. In this regard, we reiterate our call on the Conference on Disarmament to establish, as the highest priority, an Ad Hoc Committee on Nuclear Disarmament. we underline once again the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

73. We reiterate our conviction that efforts for the conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances to Non-Nuclear-Weapon States should be pursued as a matter of priority by the members of the Non-Aligned Movement.

74. We consider the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZs) created by the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba as a positive step towards attaining the objective of global nuclear disarmament. The Movement welcomes the efforts aimed at creation of new nuclear-weapons-free zones in all regions of the world and calls for cooperation and broad consultation in order to achieve agreements freely arrived at between the states of the region concerned. We reiterate that in the context of nuclear-weapon free zones, it is essential that Nuclear Weapon States should provide unconditional assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons to all States of the zone. We urge States to conclude agreements with a view to creating nuclear-weapon-free zones in regions where they do not exist, in accordance with the provisions of the Final Document of the Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament (SSOD-I). In this context, we welcome the adoption by the United

Nations Disarmament Commission at its 1999 session of a document entitled "Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned." We also welcome and support the recent adoption by the Mongolian Parliament of legislation on Mongolia's nuclear-weapon-free status as a concrete contribution to the international efforts to strengthen the non-proliferation regime.

75. We reiterate the support for the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction. To this end, we reaffirm the need for the speedy establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East in accordance with Security Council resolutions 487 (1981) and 687 (1991) and the relevant General Assembly resolutions adopted by consensus. We call upon all parties concerned to take urgent and practical steps towards the establishment of such a zone and, pending its establishment, we call on Israel, the only country in the region that has not joined the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) nor declared its intention to do so, to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, to accede to the NPT without delay, to place promptly all its nuclear facilities under IAEA full-scope safeguards and to conduct its nuclear related activities in conformity with the non-proliferation regime. We express great concern over the acquisition of nuclear capability by Israel which poses a serious and continuing threat to the security of neighbouring and other States and we condemn Israel for continuing to develop and stockpile nuclear arsenals. We are of the view that stability cannot be achieved in a region where massive imbalances in military capabilities are maintained particularly through the possession of nuclear weapons which allow one party to threaten its neighbours and the region. We further welcome the initiative by H.E. Mohammed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on the establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. We stress that necessary steps should be taken in different international fora for the establishment of this zone. We also call for the total and complete prohibition of the transfer of all nuclear-related equipment, information, material and facilities, resources or devices and the extension of assistance in the nuclear related scientific or technological fields to Israel. In this regard, we express our serious concern over the recent development whereby Israeli scientists are provided access to the nuclear facilities of one Nuclear Weapon State. This development will have potentially serious negative implications on the regional security as well as the reliability of the global non-proliferation regime.

76. We, the Ministers of the States Parties to the NPT, reiterate our call and the firm commitment by all States parties to the Treaty for the full implementation at the 2000 NPT Review Conference, of the package agreed to at the 1995 NPT Review

and Extension Conference which comprises of the decision on "Strengthening the review process for the Treaty", the decision on "Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament", the decision on "Extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons", and the "Resolution on the Middle East". We note with appreciation that specific time as made available at the Third Preparatory session for the 2000 Review Conference for the discussion on and consideration of proposals on the provisions in Article VI of the NPT and in paragraphs 3 and 4 (C) of the 1995 decision on "Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament", dealing with nuclear disarmament, as well as on the Resolution on the Middle East adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference. In this context, we reaffirm the importance of the implementation of the call by our Heads of State or Government for the Review Conference to establish a subsidiary body to Main Committee I to deliberate on practical steps for systematic and progressive efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons, as well as a subsidiary body to Main Committee II to consider and recommend proposals on the implementation of the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the NPT.

77. We note with concern that undue restrictions on exports to developing countries of material, equipment and technology, for peaceful purposes persist. We emphasize that proliferation concerns are best addressed through multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory agreements. Non-proliferation control arrangements should be transparent and open to participation by all States, and should ensure that they do not impose restrictions on access to material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes required by developing countries for their continued development. In this regard we also express our strong rejection of attempts by any member State to use the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) technical cooperation programme as a tool for political purposes in violation of the IAEA's Statute.

78. We, the Ministers of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) welcome the increasing number of ratifications of the Convention and invite all States who have still not ratified it do so as soon as possible with the view to its universality. We also underline the urgency of satisfactorily resolving the unresolved issues in the framework of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) with a view to paving the ground for the effective, full and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention. In this context, we reiterate our call on the developed countries to promote international cooperation through the transfer of technology, material and equipment for peaceful purposes in the chemical field and the removal of all and any discriminatory restrictions that are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Convention. We emphasize the need for

an urgent conclusion of the relationship agreement between the United Nations and the OPCW, in accordance with the provisions of the CWC.

79. While asserting that the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) inherently precludes the use of biological weapons, we, the Ministers of the States Parties to the Convention recall the decision by the BWC Review Conference that the use by the States Parties, in any way and under any circumstances, of microbial or other biological agents or toxins, that is not consistent with prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes, is effectively a violation of Article I of the Convention. We reiterate our conviction that the use of biological weapons, in any way and under any circumstances, is effectively a violation of Article I of the Convention and we express the wish for this issue to be pursued further by the State Parties. We note the progress achieved so far in negotiating a Protocol to strengthen the BWC and reaffirm the decision of the Fourth Review Conference urging the conclusion of the negotiations by the Ad Hoc Group as soon as possible, before the commencement of the Fifth Review Conference, and for it to submit its report, which shall be adopted by consensus, to the States Parties to consider it at a Special Conference. Therefore artificial deadlines should be avoided. While we also note that there still exist a number of outstanding issues that need to be resolved, we are satisfied with the substantial progress which has been achieved in the negotiations of the Ad Hoc Group, and wish to emphasize that the principle of negotiation on the rolling text provides the methodology for resolving outstanding issues by consensus. Finally, and in this context, we call for flexibility to be shown on the outstanding issues as has already been demonstrated by the positive contributions on key issues made by the NAM and Other States participating in the negotiations, and we call on the Ad Hoc Group to conclude its work at the earliest possible date allowing sufficient time for the steps which would need to be taken for the consideration of the outcome of the Ad Hoc Group's work at a special conference to be held prior to the BWC's 2001 Review Conference.

80. We remain deeply concerned over the illicit transfer, manufacture and circulation of small arms and light weapons and their excessive accumulation and proliferation in many countries, with destabilizing effects. We fully share the regional and international concern that the easy availability of illicit small arms and light weapons escalate conflicts, undermine political stability and have a devastating impact on peace and security. We invite the international community, in cooperation with international and other regional organizations to work together towards resolving the problem of proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons. In this context, we welcome the decision adopted by the 35th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Organisation

of African Unity (OAU) held in Algiers, Algeria, regarding the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons; the entry into force on July 1, 1998, of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials; the decision on prevention and combatting of illicit trafficking in small arms and related crimes adopted by the Council of Ministers at the 19th Summit of Heads of State or Government of the Southern African Development Community held in Maputo, Mozambique; the initiative taken by the States members of the Economic Community of West African States in declaring a moratorium on the importation, exportation and manufacture of small arms and light weapons in West Africa; the Nairobi Declaration on the Problem of the Proliferation of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa adopted at the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa Conference on the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 12 - 15 March 2000 and we encourage similar initiatives in this regard.

81. We express our support for the convening of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects which will be held in 2001, and welcome the establishment of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference which held its first meeting from 28 February -3 March 2000. We recall that the General Assembly at its 54th session, in resolution 54/54 V, decided that the scope of the UN Conference will be the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. We reiterate our call for the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee to utilize the inter-sessional period to conduct open-ended informal consultations in a transparent manner to facilitate the widest possible exchange of views on all issues related to this Conference. we are also in favour of informal intersessional meetings prior to the second session on all issues pertaining to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects provided that such meetings should be held in New York in order to ensure the widest possible participation of States, in particular countries with limited representation, and to ensure continuity in the work of the Preparatory Committee. We invite the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee to submit a report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session on the outcome of consultations conducted in the inter-sessional period. We stress that the venues of future Preparatory Committee session and the Conference should ensure the broadest participation of all Member States of the United Nations, in particular countries with limited representation. In this regard, we take note with appreciation, of the offer made by the Republic of Kenya to host one of the future Preparatory Committee Sessions. We believe that the Conference should

be chaired by a representative of a country affected by the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons.

82. We deplore the use, in contravention of international humanitarian law, of anti-personnel mines in conflict situations aimed at maiming, killing and terrorizing innocent civilians, denying them access to farmland, causing famine and forcing them to flee their homes eventually leading to depopulation and preventing the return of civilians to their place of original residence. We call upon the international community to provide the necessary assistance to landmine clearance operations as well as the rehabilitation of victims and their social and economic reintegration in the landmine affected countries. We further call for international assistance to ensure full access of affected countries to material equipment, technology and financial resources for mine clearance. We also call for increased humanitarian assistance for victims of landmines.

83. We express concern about the residue of the Second World War, particularly in the form of landmines which have caused human and material damage and obstructed development plans in some Non-Aligned countries. We call on the States responsible for laying the mines outside their territories to cooperate with the affected countries, provide the necessary information, and maps indicating the locations of such mines, technical assistance for their clearance and contribute towards defrayal of the costs of clearance and provide compensation for any ensuing losses.

84. We call on States to become parties to the Convention on Prohibition or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) and its Protocols, in particular in light of the Review Conference in 2001. We take note of the First Annual Conference of States Parties to the Amended Protocol II to the CCw, realized in Geneva in December 1999 and stress the importance of its effective implementation. We also take note of the realization of the First Meeting of States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction which took place in Maputo, Mozambique in May 1999.

85. We call for an international conference, at the earliest possible date, with the objective of arriving at an agreement on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified framework of time to eliminate all nuclear weapons, to prohibit their development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use, and to provide for their destruction.

86. We reiterate once again our support for the convening of the

Fourth Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to Disarmament. We express deep concern over the lack of consensus on the deliberations held by the United Nations Disarmament Commission in 1999 on the agenda and objectives. We note that the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States and report to the 55th General Assembly on the objectives, agenda and timing of the Special Session. In this regard, we direct the Coordinating Bureau to entrust the NAM Working Group on Disarmament with the task of continuing to press for further steps leading to the convening of the Fourth Special Session with the participation of all Member States of the United Nations as well as the need for SSOD-IV to review and assess the implementation of SSOD-I, while reaffirming its principles and priorities.

Indian Ocean

87. We reaffirm the validity of the objectives of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace. We reaffirm the importance of international cooperation to ensure peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region. We note that greater efforts and more time are required to facilitate a focused discussion on practical measures to ensure conditions of peace, security and stability in the region. We also note that in light of resolution 54/47 of the United Nations General Assembly, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean will continue his informal consultations on the future work of the Committee.

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